

App. No. 10/660044
Office Action Dated June 23, 2004
Amd. Dated September 23, 2004
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 9 and 10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A steering system for a personal watercraft comprising:
 - a steering nozzle that determines the direction of jet water ejected from the watercraft, the steering nozzle being movably disposed on a rear side of the jet propeller;
 - an operating cable for vertically moving the steering nozzle;
 - a connecting portion of the operating cable being provided at an upper portion of the steering nozzle and connecting the operating cable to the steering nozzle; and
 - a reverse bucket with a recessed portion, the reverse bucket being capable of guiding jet water in a forward direction and being movable between an upper and a lower position, the reverse bucket being disposed on a rear side of the steering nozzle,
 - wherein when the reverse bucket is positioned in the upper position, at least a portion of the connecting portion is positioned inside of the recessed portion.
2. (Original) The steering system according to claim 1, wherein the connecting portion and the recessed portion are aligned with a center of the steering nozzle in a hull width direction.
3. (Original) The steering system according to claim 1, wherein the recessed portion is a groove formed in the top half of the reverse bucket.
4. (Original) The steering system according to claim 1, wherein the reverse bucket further

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comprises an open section at a top surface of the reverse bucket, the open section being in

vertical alignment with the recessed portion.

5. (Original) A personal watercraft comprising:

an engine disposed on a lower side of a deck of the watercraft;

a jet propeller disposed on a rear side of the engine;

a steering nozzle for determining the direction of jet water ejected from the watercraft,

the steering nozzle being movably disposed on a rear side of the jet propeller;

an operating cable for vertically moving the steering nozzle;

a connecting portion of the operating cable being provided at an upper portion of the steering nozzle and connecting the operating cable to the steering nozzle; and

a reverse bucket with a recessed portion, the reverse bucket being capable of guiding jet water in a forward direction and being movable between an upper and a lower position, the reverse bucket being disposed on a rear side of the steering nozzle,
wherein when the reverse bucket is positioned in the upper position, at least a portion of the connecting portion is positioned inside of the recessed portion.

6. (Original) The personal watercraft according to claim 5, wherein the connecting portion and the recessed portion are aligned with a center of the steering nozzle in a hull width direction of the steering nozzle.

7. (Original) The personal watercraft according to claim 5, wherein the recessed portion is a groove formed in the top half of the reverse bucket.

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8. (Original) The personal watercraft according to claim 5, wherein the reverse bucket further comprises an open section at a top surface of the reverse bucket, the open section being in vertical alignment with the recessed portion.

9-10 (Canceled)